

News



Karen Chandler

Our faculty are tops! Karen Chandler receives national ECE award

George Brown ECE teacher Karen Chandler had a great early childhood education herself – thanks to her mother. "She's quite a force."

Chandler says of her mother to whom she paid tribute after being presented with the Canadian Child Care Federation's highest national award – the *Award for Excellence in Child Care*.

With her mother looking on at the November awards ceremony at York University – she gave up a bowling game to be there – Chandler credited her mother's "subtle modeling" of behaviour as a guiding force in her career. She says it was her mother's example of perseverance, caring and community activism that helped her become a national leader in the movement for high quality child care in Canada.

That career began in 1971 when Chandler began working in a daycare centre. Sensing her potential, a provincial daycare worker suggested that Chandler get an Early Childhood Education diploma, which she did, piecing together credits from Georgian, Cambrian and Canadore colleges.

Chandler says she was immediately fascinated by child development and became deeply committed to high quality child care that is "respectful of children as individuals."

That interest and commitment led her to Toronto where, as a single mother, she earned a degree from Ryerson Polytechnic and undertook graduate studies at the University of Toronto and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Earlier retirement now a reality

College staff can now retire earlier – and sometimes with larger pension cheques – thanks to a booming stock market.

The pension changes, which came into effect on January 1, 1998, have been prompted by huge growth in the value of stocks and other securities held by the pension plan – by the end of 1995, the plan's surplus had increased from \$81 million to \$256 million. It is part of this fund surplus which is being used to improve the college pension plan.

As a result, there are a number of elements up for consideration by anyone contemplating an early retirement. For

example, a reduction in the retirement factor to 85 from 90 means that staff whose age and years of service add up to 85 can now retire with an unreduced pension – 30 months sooner than under the old factor of 90.

The minimum age for early retirement with a reduced pension has also been dropped from 55 to 50 for staff with 20 years of service. However, staff who are 55 with at least two years of service also remain eligible for early retirement with a reduced pension.

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Most students of George Brown College are in need of financial assistance and many will be unable to continue their studies without it. This is why the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSTOF) program is of extreme importance.

The OSTOF program matches, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, all funds raised to financially assist students. Initially set up as a one-year project, the provincial government has extended the program to March 1998. This is welcome news as it gives us the opportunity to continue building a stronger funding base. It also gives contributors further opportunity to make a donation and we hope you will consider this request if you have not already done so. This can be done by making a one-time gift or extending your pledge over a three-year period. In fact, we have set up an automatic payroll deduction system to make it easier for you. To make a one-time contribution or pledge using payroll deduction, please call the George Brown College Foundation office at 2054. Of course, all gifts are tax deductible.

I am well aware of the many financial pressures placed upon us by the recent holiday season, however, we hope that you will support all students to become George Brown graduates by contributing to this important initiative.

— FRANK SOROCHINSKY

George Brown College capital project approved

A \$1.35 million capital project to refurbish several aspects of George Brown College's buildings was recently approved for funding under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program. The funding will be used to replace mechanical, electrical and architectural components of buildings to improve air quality, safety, security and energy efficiency.

Bashar Amer, Director of the College's Physical Resources Department, says the largest project is the upgrading of the college's chiller at 200 King St. East which will provide improved cold air circulation during the summer. Renovations for state-of-the-art dental facilities at 175 Kendal Avenue and partial roof replacement at 160 Kendal are on the list of maintenance projects as well.

"We will also be continuing the lighting retrofit to improve lighting where needed and to reduce energy costs," says Amer. This component of the capital project is part of a long-term strategy to

audit and alter all systems, architectural, mechanical and electrical, which contribute to high energy consumption.

The safety and security systems at the college campuses, such as the fire alarm system, emergency lighting and exterior doors, will also be upgraded.

Amer says the College is pleased to have received the grant. "Our annual Facilities Renewal grant is very modest and does not adequately cover our pressing maintenance needs."

"This support from government will greatly assist us to create a safer and more comfortable environment for staff and students," says GBC president *Frank Sorochinsky*.

The Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program is a joint venture of the federal and provincial governments with participation from local partners such as municipalities, post-secondary institutions and health care facilities.

George Brown People

Darrin Caron has been appointed Director of the Training Services Division. Caron has been Manager of Employer Services for the last three years and brings to the position a strong and successful background in effective marketing of college education and training services.

Hugh Colquhoun joined the college in early December as Manager, Occupational Health and Safety. A graduate of Humber College's Occupational Hygiene and Safety Technology program, Colquhoun brings to his position more than 20 years of experience in this field.

James Brouwer has joined the Information Technology Department in the Technology Division.

Leaving the College are: *Marion Goltz* of the Faculty of Health Sciences, *Campbell McDermid* of the Student Affairs Department and *Franco Volpentesta* of Facilities Management at Casa Loma Campus.

Retiring from the College are: *Cash Belden* of Information Systems, *Irene Gish* of the Faculty of Business, and *Norm MacAdam* of the Faculty of Business.

Way to Go! – George Brown Success Stories

Hospitality staff member wins Finnish studies prize

Barbara Holpainen from the School of Hospitality is the recipient of *The Journal of Finnish Studies Essay Prize* for a term paper she wrote on Finnish mythology. The annual prize is awarded on the basis of originality and academic excellence to a student in the University of Toronto Finnish Studies Program. Ms. Holpainen received the prize on November 1 at Toronto City Hall.

Calls burn up new Con Ed Hotline

The new "Course Availability Hotline" has become a popular and successful service for potential students wanting to know the status of any continuing education class.

According to Brian Schlotzauer, Manager of Admissions, Registration and Call Centre, the hotline has been averaging 600 calls per week, although it fielded about 1500 calls per week during its first few weeks of operation in August.

"The automated hotline provides callers with an updated status report on all courses being offered through Continuing Education," says Schlotzauer. "The status of each course, whether it's filled, cancelled, still available or wait listed, is automatically updated every hour based on registration information."

For Schlotzauer, however, the real story is how college-wide collaboration made the hot-line possible. "The service became a reality as a result of support, financial and otherwise, from each continuing education department across the college," he says.

Callers to the hotline are walked through the information-getting process, which also explains how to register for a course. Enhancements, such as providing information on room location, may also be available in the future. The service is currently available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Blacktie graduation for British denturists

Thirty-seven members of the Clinical Dental Technicians Association (CDTA) (UK) recently completed George Brown's Upgrade to Licence program through the International Denturists Education Centre.

Their graduation was a blacktie ceremony at Westminster in London, England on November 22. The CDTA plans to sign a contract with GBC/IDE for a second group to begin their program in 1998.

George Brown Professor Mike Vakalis was honoured at the graduation ceremony with an induction into the *Order of Sterkenbergers*, an international order of distinguished persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the denturist profession.

New Adult Education book publishes George Brown College authors

The second edition of *The Foundations of Adult Education in Canada*, a history of adult education in Canada as well as an appraisal of current issues in the field, is being published shortly by Thompson Educational Press. The book, co-authored by George Brown's Michael Cooke, is used in many first year university courses across Canada.

The newest edition has new chapters on adult education in Quebec, in the Labour Movement, and the role of women in adult education.

George Brown's Bill Fallis, of the Community Worker Program, also researched and wrote a small section on issues related to technology and adult education.

The book's other co-authors include Gordon Selman – professor emeritus of Adult Education at the University of British Columbia, Paul Dampier – Registrar at Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek, and Mark Selman – Associate Dean for Continuing Education at Simon Fraser University.

Clerical Workers Centre opens

Over the last eight years, clerical workers have been the largest and hardest hit occupational group affected by downsizing, restructuring and technological change, with some 92,600 clerical jobs lost in Toronto alone. This has resulted in a decrease in entry level positions as well as a change in skill sets for new clerical positions, making it a hard labour market for both new and experienced workers.

To assist unemployed clerical workers during their transitional period, the first Clerical Workers Centre opened in Toronto in early December to help office support workers improve their work-search skills and develop a career planning strategy. Services available through the Centre include career assessments and up-to-date labour market information in group workshops. Clients can also take advantage of the Centre's self-directed resource centre and computer lab.

Eligible persons must be current EI recipients or reachback clients who have basic computer skills and past employment as a clerical worker.

The Centre's staff are: Anne MacKenzie-Rivers, Chair; Career Counsellors Audrey de Rozario, Julie Michna and Lisa Trudel; Resource Centre Co-ordinator Ana Paredes; Computer Lab Co-ordinator Veronica Chase; Administrator Liz Ukrainetz; and Manager Shelley Acheson.

The Centre is the result of a partnership between the George Brown's Faculty of Community Services' School of Labour, Times Change Women's Employment Service, Advocates for Community Based Training and Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC). It is located off-site at 365 Bloor Street East, Suite 1802.

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Professionally, she worked for the Toronto Board of Education and the Dellcrest Resource Centre before joining George Brown as a full-time teacher 11 years ago.

She is a founding member of the Canadian Child Care Federation and served as its president from 1989 to 1991. She is also the co-author of two textbooks – *The Whole Child and Administering Early Childhood Settings* – which are both now in their third editions.

Chandler's nomination for the award was supported by child care leaders across the country. Sharon Buchan of the British Columbia Ministry for Children and Families says in her letter of support that Chandler has contributed "to a higher quality of child care from a micro level as an early childhood educator to the macro level both provincially and federally."

The yearly financial penalty for early retirement has been permanently reduced from five per cent to three per cent. This means that staff who decide to retire before their normal retirement (85 factor or 60 years old/20 years service) will only have their pension reduced by three per cent for every early retirement year. (This reduced penalty rate has been in place over the past few years.)

Changes have also been made to the pension formula, survivor benefits, and the calculation of credited service.

George Brown Benefits Manager Mary Hofweller says the pension changes may be of interest to some George Brown staff.

"There are people out there who are willing to take a small penalty," she says.

Several hundred staff have already taken an early retirement package over the past few years as the college's staff moved to 900 from 1,500.

Pension Plan manager Paul Owens says the changes bring the college pension plan in line with improvements already made in many public and private sector pension plans.

"The changes in aggregate enable the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Pension Plan to meet, and in some cases exceed, the norm prevailing amongst other major Ontario pension plans," he says.

The plan changes were unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees and Sponsor's Committee – a group that included representatives of all staff groups – at their meeting on November 26, 1997.

Hofweller says she's happy to talk with staff about their retirement options, including the pension plan and retirement savings plans.

The college is sponsoring seminars on January 15 and 22 by investment dealer Scotia-McLeod, which offer George Brown staff memberships in a group retirement savings plan. Details about the seminars will be made available to staff in a flyer, Hofweller added.

CALENDAR

Jan. 7 *Windows '95 – Introduction*, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Also being offered February 13. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 12 *Upgrading to Office '97*, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Also being offered February 20. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 14 *E-mail and the Internet – Introduction*, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 14, 21 & 28 *Microsoft Word for Windows – Introduction*, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 15 Find out about the *Scotia-McLeod Group Retirement Savings Plan* for George Brown staff as well as mutual funds and investment options. Noon to 1 p.m. See flyer for location or call (416) 415-4449 for information.

Jan. 19, 26 & Feb. 2 *Microsoft PowerPoint*, Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 19, 26 & Feb. 2 *Microsoft Excel – Introduction*, Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 21 *George Brown Book Club*: Come and discuss *Forbidden Knowledge* by Roger Shattuck, at noon in Room 402B, St. James Campus. Everyone welcome. For more information, call Al Budzin at 2543.

Jan. 22 Find out about the *Scotia-McLeod Group Retirement Savings Plan* for George Brown staff as well as mutual funds and investment options. 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. See flyer for location or call (416) 415-4449 for information.

Jan. 23 *Using Netscape*, 9 a.m. to 12 noon Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Fax your registration to 4663.

Jan. 23 *The Big Night – the 10th Annual Gala Italian Feast* at Siegfried's Dining Room at the Hospitality & Tourism Centre, 300 Adelaide Street East. Tickets are \$130 per person. To purchase tickets for this gala fund raising dinner, please contact (416) 415-2239.

Jan. 27 *The Diversity Group* meets in Room 444E at St. James campus from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Jan. 27 *GBC Lecture Series*: Author Michael Adams talks about his book *Sex in the Snow – Canadian Social Values at the End of the Millennium*, 12 noon, Hospitality & Tourism Centre Auditorium, 300 Adelaide Street East.

Jan. 29 Farewell reception for Brian Cooper at Siegfried's, 300 Adelaide Street East, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call Hercilia Medeiros at 2227 for ticket information.

Feb. 4, 11 & 18 *Microsoft Word for Windows – Intermediate*, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Also being offered Feb. 11 and 18. Fax your registration to 4663.

Feb. 11 *Board of Governors' Meeting*, 5:30 p.m. Call 4472 if you plan to attend.

Feb. 13 *Windows '95 – Introduction*, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Fax your registration to 4663.

Feb. 27 The second annual *Casino and Dance for Student Bursaries*, Siegfried's Dining Room, 300 Adelaide Street East. All money raised at this fundraising event will be matched by the provincial government. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered by contacting Ellen deBoer at (416) 415-2239 or by fax at (416) 415-2501.

We welcome success stories about you or your colleagues. Deadline for submissions for the February issue is **January 15**.

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Room 542-E, 200 King St. E.

Toronto, Ontario

Fax: (416) 415-2303

Phone: (416) 415-2900 ext. 6397

c/o Yasmin Walli

e-mail: ywalli@gbrown.on.ca

Writer: Neil McGillivray

Editor: Peggy Robinson

Design: Group Multimedia Network Corp.

Typography/Page Layout: Adam R. Mann

THE 11TH ANNUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

The conference will be held May 20 and 21, 1998 at the University of Guelph, is inviting proposals for papers and posters. The conference theme is "Teaching and Learning: Making the Link," and presentation submissions should focus on innovative ways in which learning occurs, how it can be measured and how it can be improved. The deadline for submissions is February 16, 1998. For more information contact Ruth Gillespie at:

Telephone: (519) 824-4120, ext. 3106
Fax: (519) 821-8530 or
e-mail: ruthgill@uoguelph.ca.

Visit their website at:
<http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli.html>.